

## Group says 9 SLA men killed

SIDON (R) — A Palestinian group said Tuesday it killed nine Israeli-backed militiamen and seized a strategic hilltop during overnight clashes east of the southern Lebanon port. The group, "Followers of God," said in a statement, one of its men was killed and another injured in the exchanges with the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on the Kfar Falouq front. It said its guerrillas overran the SLA-held strategic Hamra hilltop, 32 kilometers southeast of Beirut during the clashes with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The SLA's "Voice of the South" radio station said its men repelled an offensive by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), against an SLA post inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The radio said several of the attackers were wounded but no SLA militiamen were hurt. The Kfar Falouq front separates SLA-held territory from Palestinian and non-Palestinian areas. Independent security sources confirmed that Palestinian fighters carried out the attack and flew a flag bearing the words "Followers of God."

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## House sends Zionism bill to Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives have passed and sent to President George Bush a bill calling on the United Nations to repeal a 15-year-old resolution equating Zionism with racism. On a voice vote, the lawmakers approved a measure rhetorically asking "all member states of the United Nations General Assembly to take immediate action" to repeal U.N. Resolution 3779, passed in 1975. The congressional legislation, passed May 3 by the Senate, also requires the president to report to Congress periodically on progress toward repealing. The administration supports the bill and is expected to sign it.

## Irish MPs hold talks in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Three Irish parliamentarians held talks with Iranian officials about an Irish teacher held hostage by groups in Lebanon, the Tehran Times said Tuesday. The paper quoted MP David Andrews as saying they had discussed the case of Brian Keenan with two foreign ministry officials and two Iranian deputies. "Brian Keenan is a teacher who holds dual Irish-British nationality. Keenan originally is Irish and we are concerned with his captivity," Andrews told the English-language daily. Keenan, 39, was abducted more than four years ago. Three British and 11 other Westerners are missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon by groups loyal to Hezbollah.

## Kohl aiming for all-German vote on Dec. 2 or 9

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his coalition partners agreed Tuesday that all-German elections should be held on Dec. 2 or 9, coalition sources said. Kohl recently came out in favour of replacing West Germany's Dec. 2 general election with an all-German vote, but had only spoken in general of December or early January. At Tuesday's coalition meeting, chaired by Kohl, the three ruling parties agreed to strive for all-German elections to be held on either of these two dates, coalition sources said.

## Kollek at odds with U.K. consulate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, accused the British consulate in Jerusalem of practising "apartheid" by holding separate, official functions for Arabs and Jews. Kollek's spokeswoman said he would boycott a reception in honour of Queen Elizabeth's birthday Wednesday in protest. "This is a form of apartheid to which we cannot acquiesce. It is the role of a consulate to maintain contact with all the residents of the place where it is located; it is not its role to divide them," Kollek said in a statement Tuesday. British Consul-General Ivan Callan defended the policy, saying many Jews and Arabs would boycott joint events. Callan told Reuters: "We are confident in our judgement. We hold separate receptions as a courtesy to a large portion of people we have daily dealings with. One can't expect Kollek to bring about conciliations that greater parties have been unable to do."

## Velayati rules out talks with Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran Tuesday ruled out talks with the leader of Afghanistan's Communist-style government to end the 12-year-old Afghan war. "We have not softened our position with (Afghan President) Najibullah. We will not talk with him," said Velayati, who is in Pakistan for a meeting of the three-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation. His partners at the economic summit were Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Turkey's Minister of State for Economic Affairs Ismail Cetin. Pakistan and Iran have absorbed more than five million Afghan refugees since 1979, when the Soviet Union intervened militarily in the country.

## Israel will have 7.5 million Jews by 2000 — Crown Prince

# King warns of Israeli plots

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court with participants in an international symposium on Jerusalem which began in Amman Tuesday.

Welcoming the delegates, the King reminded them that the meeting, "not far from Jerusalem, bears a great significance." He praised their efforts in defending the Arab right in the Holy City.

King Hussein referred to recent international developments, which, he said, were positive in many aspects but adversely affected the Arab region and the Arab cause.

"Our meeting here as Christians and Muslims at a most opportune time is a welcome event because we need to talk in one voice and speak out in defense of our rights in the Holy City," said the King.

"The Christian-Muslim relationship has bound us firmly throughout the Arab and Islamic history and since the days of Omar and joined our efforts in repelling foreign aggression on Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular," King Hussein added.

"We, as Christians and Muslims, are deeply pained to see and hear Israel's practices in Palestine," he added (see page 3).

## French Jews urge Israel to open peace talks with PLO

# World Zionists oppose settlement of Soviets in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leading world Zionists, whose backing is crucial for Israel, have drafted a resolution opposing settlement of Soviet Jews on occupied Arab territories.

The resolution, to go before delegates from the World Zionist Organisation (WZO), was seen as a clear message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's week-old hardline government which wants to build up Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Lawyer Theo Klein told Herzog in a letter, released Monday, that Jews in the diaspora would undertake such contacts themselves if the Israeli government refused to do so.

"Everyone knows that the PLO speaks a new language, even if it sometimes includes scandalous contradictions..." he added.

"But would it not be by establishing contact (with the PLO) and forcing it to unveil the reality of its intentions that Israel could eventually prove to the world the fallacies which it says are uttered by (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat," he said.

"... By freely accepting negotiations, the state of Israel would demonstrate its strength, its maturity and its capacity to participate in defining the future."

Klein said that if Israel's right-wing Likud-led government continued to reject contacts with the PLO, "then, would we Jews of the diaspora — Israel's fraternal brothers — not be morally forced to explore ourselves the reality of new (PLO) political overtures?"

He said Palestinians were not hereditary enemies of Israel, and the uprising in occupied territories raging since December 1987 would be halted only by a political settlement.

Some members of France's Jewish community, traditional strong backs of Israel, have been uneasy at Israeli policies in recent years, with intellectuals like Klein backing Israeli liberals who call for talks with the PLO.

and Jerusalem and we believe that what is happening now is part of a major conspiracy directed against the Arab region — a conspiracy coming at a time when certain world powers place selfish interests above all considerations of values and ethics," the King pointed out.

Among those attending the meeting were Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abde Odeh.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the conference earlier Tuesday that immigration could raise Israel's population to 7.5 million Jews by the year 2000 and thus provides a new incentive for Israel to expand, he said.

"Bringing in these new migrants in such large numbers creates a new reality in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip," the Crown Prince said.

"It blocks the road to any peaceful settlement and might lead to all the land being swallowed up by this flood of migration," he added (see page 3).



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives the health ministers of the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (Petra photo)

## ACC health ministers brief King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the health ministers of the four Arab cooperation Council (ACC) member states who are in Amman for their second meeting.

The ministers briefed the King on the outcome of their discussions and the steps taken so far to enhance and broaden scopes of cooperation among the four states in the field of health.

The ministers started their two-day meetings here Tuesday to discuss recommendations of the

last meeting and examine prospects for unifying health rules, regulations, and legislations in the four countries in a bid to achieve health integration in the four countries. Such an integration is seen as a prelude to achieving Arab health integration. The ministers will also exchange experience in the health field and will discuss means of developing the technical and administrative health personnel in the four countries.

## Angolan truce said close

LISBON (Agencies) — Angola's government and UNITA rebels are closer than ever to signing a lasting ceasefire, despite the rebels' recall of their delegation from peace talks here, a Portuguese official said Tuesday.

Three days of talks between low-level government and rebel delegations ended Monday and produced "progress, but not yet enough for a full agreement," said Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

"Both sides have never been so close to an accord as now. Only the final piece is missing, perhaps the smallest piece, but that's very often the most difficult piece to agree on," said Durao Barroso, who hosted this second round of talks at a military installation outside Lisbon.

Durao Barroso did not specify what point or point needed to be resolved.

The talks were sponsored by Portugal's Premier Antbal Cavaco Silva. Angola was a Portuguese colony until it became independent in 1975. The U.S.-backed UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — and the nation's Marxist government have been at war since then.

Despite UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's recall of his delegation early Monday to discuss disagreements at the talks, Durao Barroso said the negotiating teams bad agreed to meet again in Portugal probably in the first half of July.

The negotiating teams, headed by Paulo Alencar Mangal and Antonio Pitra for UNITA and Antonio Pitra for Angolan government, worked late into Monday night to write a protocol reflecting all positions tabled at the talks. A copy of the confidential record would be kept by the Portuguese government, which is keeping the United States and the Soviet Union informed of progress in the talks, Durao Barroso said. The Kremlin backs the Angolan government.

According to the diplomat, negotiators focused on terms and monitoring mechanisms for a final truce engineered by Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko last June 22 at his home town of Gbadolite collapsed within days and direct peace talks broke down soon afterwards.

Despite efforts by African and European diplomats and pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union, the belligerents only agreed to return to the negotiating table April 23 at the first Portuguese-sponsored round at Evora, east of Lisbon.

## Romanian government launches crack-down

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's government, given the go-ahead by parliament to crack down on protest, announced Tuesday the arrests of two more opposition leaders.

The arrests followed the detention Monday of Marian Munteanu, a student leader severely beaten by miners last week. Munteanu was removed from his hospital bed to an interior ministry hospital on charges of instigating violence.

The interior ministry, dominated by the National Salvation Front of President-elect Ion Iliescu, gave overwhelming approval on Monday to a motion by the interior minister calling for "the forces of law and order" to crush any new anti-government protests.

In the 377-deputy chamber, only 72 deputies from the three main opposition parties voted against the motion, while seven abstained.

The upper house, the senate, also approved action against trespassers on public property. But the wording of the senate measure was different from the chamber's motion, and it was unclear whether the police and army now have legal authority for a crackdown.

The votes came as hundreds of defiant demonstrators occupied University Square for the second day, demanding Iliescu's removal and an investigation of the violence that terrorized Bucharest for three days last week.

Asked how long she would be

## Israeli mass killer fit to stand trial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli gunman who killed seven Palestinians, triggering major Palestinian unrest and international outrage, was responsible for his actions and fit to stand trial, prosecutors told a Tel Aviv court Tuesday.

The Israeli army had said 21-year-old Ami Popper, who gunned down his victims with an army-issued assault rifle, was unstable. His father described him as a "lunatic."

Popper was surrounded by 10 policemen when he appeared in the crowded courtroom. He was indicted Monday for murder and attempted murder in the May 20 incident.

Witnesses said Popper lined up Palestinians waiting for work at a pick-up point in Rishon Lezion near Tel Aviv and pretended to check their identity cards before spraying them with bullets at close range.

Police Minister Ronnie Milo, appointed to Israel's new cabinet along with Arens last week, made a similar inspection trip to the Shufat refugee camp in Arab Jerusalem.

Milo was briefed by area commanders in a police lookout above the camp while children on the streets below threw rocks at border police.

"I have only seen some of what the army has done. I am impressed that the army is doing difficult and unpleasant work and doing it well," Arens told reporters after his trip to the occupied Gaza Strip.

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"asked me for replies and explanations about our path in the framework of the peace process."

The prime minister said, "we will explain to him, to the best of our ability, our attitude, our proposals, and I sincerely hope if here and there, there are differences of opinion, we will reach an agreement."

David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, has accused the United States of distorting the election initiative that Shamir offered in the spring of 1989.

## Peres warns of war

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres Monday warned of increased extremism, violence, and preparations for war in the Middle East if the new government fails to talk peace with Palestinians.

"If chances for peace disappear, I believe we should see the ugly phenomena of yesterday re-emerging in the Middle East," Peres told Jewish leaders in New York.

"That is," he said, "escalation of the arms race, of threats, of terrorism, and of preparation for war. It's tragic for all parties concerned."

Offering the number of the White House switchboard, Baker said the message for Israel is: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

In his letter, Bush asked Shamir "for a description of where he stands on the peace process at this time," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

Shamir, in a television interview Monday, said that Bush

(Continued on page 4)

## Deputy-cum-ministers seeking to join blocs in Lower House

By Marjan M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Government ministers who are also serving Lower House deputies are making attempts to join existing blocs in Parliament, according to a number of deputies.

"There seems to be an attempt by our colleagues who hold posts as ministers to join ranks in some of the existing blocs," one deputy told the Jordan Times Monday.

"If I didn't know better I'd say they were trying to influence us," said another deputy.

Discussions are under way about the possible inclusion of four ministers, Yousef Mbeideen, Ali Faqir, Abdul Bagi Jammal and Abdal Majid Shreideh, in what was originally called the "Independent Bloc."

He said Palestinians were not hereditary enemies of Israel, and the uprising in occupied territories raging since December 1987 would be halted only by a political settlement.

Some members of the bloc are uneasy about having ministers as members of their parliamentary coalition.

"If you ask me about the individuals I have no objection to any one of them joining. But I doubt that as ministers they can serve our bloc's interests well," said one

member who preferred to stay anonymous.

"Let's face it. If we have to vote on an important government issue and we, as a bloc, decide to vote against it and our colleagues who are serving in the cabinet vote with us, then they will cease to be ministers," said another member of the bloc.

"On the other hand," he pointed out, "if they vote with the government it will mean that they are not really a member of our bloc."

The bloc's members are apparently split on the issue of broadening the membership of the eight-member bloc.

At present the House has three blocs other than the independent, the Muslim Brotherhood (22-24 members), the National Bloc (22 members), and the Democratic Bloc (nine members). At least another politically liberal bloc is reportedly in the making, but its founders have yet to announce its formation.

Spokesman for the National Bloc, deputies Dr. Abdullah Nsour and Dr. Mohammad Abu Aleim, confirmed specula-

tion that ministers Mohammad Al Zaben, Qassem Obaidat and Abdul Karim Al Kabariti have asked to join their parliamentary coalition.

"They were part of our coalition and we still consider them part of our bloc," said Dr. Nsour. He also confirmed that his bloc's membership now stood at 25, (included in the figure are the three ministers).

Democratic Bloc members have confirmed that ministers Ibrahim Ghahabsh and Abdul Karim Al Dughmi have attempted to "rejoin" the bloc to which they originally belonged.

"Yes, they have asked to rejoin but in principle we are against having ministers in our coalition. It will reflect on our decision-making process and you should not mix two estates. It is against the principle of separation of powers," one Democratic Bloc member said.

Other members confirmed, however, that discussions were under way with the two deputies about the possibility of their rejoining the bloc.

## General elections loom in Algeria after FIS win

ALGIERS (R) — Early general elections in Algeria that could bring Muslim fundamentalists to power appear likely after their upset victory in a local polling last week.

President Chadli Benjedid has not yet indicated whether he will dissolve parliament, now entirely run by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and not due for re-election until 1992.

But given the extent of the FLN's rout in the country's first free poll by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and Benjedid's own declared commitment to the democratic process, most Algerians feel general elections before 1992 are inevitable.

"Early (general) elections are certain. The question is when," said Azziki Att Arbi, a senior member of the centre-left Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the Berber-dominated party that came in fourth.

"For us the campaign for legislative elections has already begun," he told Reuters.

The popular vote has not yet been released but the FIS won 55 per cent of the 1,541 municipalities, the FLN 34 per cent, independents seven per cent and RCD six per cent.

The FIS lost no time in demanding a dissolution of parliament, and most political observers say the alternative is a prolonged period of social and political unrest.

The country is already racked by an economic crisis and a wave of strikes that has picked up steam since the elections and

ahead of a crucial congress this month of the official trade union, the General Union of Algerian Workers.

The FIS has shown it is not only master at the polls, but the political force most be able to control the streets and fill in for a discredited and weakened state, as it did by replacing striking garbage collectors in the capital last week.

As if to make Benjedid's decision easier, the FIS since the poll has had only kind words for the president, also FLN president, who launched a multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

Benjedid, whose third five-year term expires in 1993, did not rule out co-existence with non-FLN government when asked about it last March.

The battered FLN, which had ruled unchallenged for 28 years, has vowed to cleanse its ranks — something party reformers have urged with little success since 1988.

A host of centrist and leftist parties led by the RCD are discussing the possibility of a united front.

"The shock may be salutary.

Algerians who do not identify with either the corpse of the FLN or the FIS are mobilising. If we can unite all is not lost," said Att Arbi.

## U.S. claims Libya building new chemical weapons plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — Libyan Leader Moammar Qadhafi may be building a second chemical weapons factory at a remote underground location, U.S. administration officials have said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said in interviews with the Associated Press that it's not clear whether construction is complete.

"We're not sure until then" what exactly the facility will be, one official said.

However, the officials declined to say how the activity that points to work on a second plant was detected or to pinpoint the exact location.

Even so, the State Department publicly registered concern.

"It's dangerous for the entire region, and for the entire world, you could say," spokesman Richard Boucher said. "There are reports that Libya has already used a weapon of mass destruction, chemical weapons, in combat."

He referred to claims Libya used chemical weapons in an invasion of Chad, a neighbouring African country, several years ago.

The officials said Qadhafi's purpose in building a second plant was to divert some poison gas production from Rafta.

Qadhafi claims the Rafta plant is a pharmaceutical production

factory. U.S. and West German officials have said it was producing small amounts of chemical weapons and that Libya was on the verge of bringing production up to full capacity.

Boucher called Rafta a dangerous facility. "We're very seriously concerned about it," he said. "There are reports of a second chemical weapons production facility to prove true, our concern would be that much greater. Our position remains that any chemical weapons facility in Libya must be dismantled."

The spokesman said Rafta is still capable of producing chemical weapons.

"We've spoken with many countries capable of supplying manpower, expertise or equipment to a Libyan chemical weapons facility," he said. "We have urged them, of course, not to do so."

Last week, a West German businessman, Jürgen Fließendörfer, confessed in a regional court in Mannheim that he was responsible for secretly selling a chemical production plant to Libya for \$150 million.

U.S. intelligence, with assistance from such friendly countries as France and Israel, keeps watch over Qadhafi's military activities. The officials declined to say how the "activity" that points to work on a second plant was detected or

## Somalia frees 21, detains over 40 critics

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somali authorities have arrested more than 40 people for distributing what the government says are seditious pamphlets criticising President Mohammed Siad Barre's rule.

The arrests were announced Monday by Ahmad Sulayman Abdallah, deputy secretary general of the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party. He said another 21 people had been released after proving they had nothing to do with the leaflets.

Amnesty International, the

London-based human rights group, last week claimed up to 50 prominent people, including the country's former president, had been arrested for signing their name to a statement titled "Mogadishu Manifesto no. 1."

The statement, signed by more than 100 people and issued May 15, expressed concern at the destruction, killings and flow of refugees from Somalia's civil war, said Amnesty. It said the statement also criticised the government for violations of human rights, corruption and economic

mishandling.

Ahmad's announcement, broadcast on state-run Somali Radio and monitored in Nairobi, said authorities were holding "over 40 people" for distributing inside and outside the East African nation leaflets "claiming to advise the president."

He described them as "power seekers" whose aim was to create discord between the people and the government. He did not say when the leaflets first were distributed.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Riyadh said that Pickering's tight schedule precluded a request for a meeting with the King. But Arab diplomats in the Saudi capital interpreted Fahd's not seeing a ranking U.S. diplomat as a sign of displeasure.

He said the fire apparently was a hoax and also "a pretty clear indication of intentions and willingness to deceive the world in order to further their own interests on this issue."

Meanwhile, the Libyan News Agency (JANA), as monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., quoted Qadhafi as urging scientists Sunday to "work day and night" to build a nuclear weapon "in defiance of America."

He also called for development of Libyan space technology.

"America manufactures missiles and puts above our heads satellites," the Libyan leader was quoted as saying. "This provokes you and ignites in you the spirit of defiance and revolution to reach space and manufacture the atom." He blamed the United States for withholding technology Libya needs.

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## Jordan Times

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## Try a different wavelength

FROM A FIRST look, the move by the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) to record its opposition to the settlement of Soviet Jewish emigres in the occupied territories through adopting a resolution at its present meeting in occupied Jerusalem to that effect would be seen as somewhat positive. But the impression fades fast into oblivion when one considers that the position is prompted by fears that the wave of massive immigration of Soviet Jews could be slowed down and not by any concern over the Middle East peace process. If anything, the WZO is betting that the newcomers could be settled within the "green line" while "established Israelis" could gradually move into the occupied territories. If that was not enough, consider the pointed reference during the meeting in occupied Jerusalem Tuesday that American aid to Israel could be reduced if the Jewish state continued its settlement policy. Not that we could expect any positive concern from the world Zionist movement over the absence of justice for the Arabs; it would only be simple wishful thinking.

On the other hand, a highly positive signal has come from one of the leaders of the Jewish community in France, Theo Klein, who has issued a warning to Israel that "Jews in the diaspora" do not look kindly upon its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and might take it upon themselves to launch contacts with the PLO.

Now, we do not know what percentage of "Jews in the diaspora" does Klein represent or whether his call carries enough weight among world Jewry to pressure or even influence Israeli thinking. But one thing is sure, there is a growing feeling among Jews, whether in the East or the West, that whatever image Israel is transmitting to them, there is something seriously wrong with its approach to the conflict. Klein, by openly challenging Israel to initiate talks with the PLO "to unveil the reality of its intentions," has hit the nail on the head. That's what precisely what the Arabs and many others who are convinced of the sincerity of the PLO's peace overtures have been telling Israel.

Well, the message appears to be taking a very, very long time to reach Israel simply because the Jewish state has switched off that particular wavelength. Perhaps, it is time a different channel was tried — people like Theo Klein who seem to have understood the reality that it is not in Israel's "long-term interests" to keep a blind eye to realistic visions of peace and turn a deaf ear to the voice of reason.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I said Washington's continued support for Israel and its open hostility to the Arabs are bound to force the moderates in the Arab World towards extremism. The United States and other Western powers realise the great tragedy awaiting the Middle East if the voice of reason and moderation disappeared, and the moderates took to extremism, the paper said. It echoed a call by King Hussein earlier this week on Washington to take a more realistic stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to show concern over its own interests in the region. The past three decades emphasised that the United States, under Zionist lobby pressure, has been placing Israel's interests before its own and has been carried away behind Israel and the Zionist movement in showing its total enmity towards the Arab World, the paper said. The United States has indeed declared war on Arab moderation and not against international terrorism as claimed by the Reagan and the Bush administrations, said the paper. Indeed, since the beginning of the 1980s, the United States has been moving more and more towards world Zionist terrorism, creating in the Arab World an extremist element totally hostile to the United States and its allies, the paper said. The situation is becoming more dangerous everyday, with Washington adhering to its policies and the Arab extremists threatening to use the oil weapon against the West and rejecting any dialogue with the Americans, warned the paper. It said if the United States pursues its present policies, it will stifle all voices of reason and open the door wide for extremists reactions.

AL DUSTOUR discussed King Hussein's television interview Sunday in which he said that the present economic crisis in Jordan resulted from this country's endeavours to defend the Arab Order and from the struggle against Zionism and aggression. The paper echoed the King's words that Jordan has been offering sacrifices for the Arab Nation and for Palestine, and that it is now facing a formidable enemy which is bent on pursuing aggression on the Arab countries. Jordan, the paper continued, cannot concede one inch of the Arab land and will continue the struggle despite the crisis and despite the difficulties and the great odds. It said there is no alternative to confront Israel's threats and arrogance other than maintaining Arab steadfastness, and there is no escape from confronting the Zionists to stop their lust for aggression and expansion, said the paper. The paper reiterated Jordan's readiness to offer more sacrifices and defend the Arab Order at all costs.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily said that Jordan now lies at the top of a volcano, and that Israel, with its arsenal of weapons and the new immigrants, is getting ready to introduce changes in the Arab World to make more gains and to achieve further expansion at the expense of the Arab World. The paper recalled the King's words in which he warned the Arab countries and the international community of Israel's evil intentions of trying to acquire the wealth of the Middle East. It said that the Arabs possess 65 per cent of the world's reserves of oil, and this tempts Israel to launch attacks and expand its borders in a bid to reach that wealth. To absorb hundreds of thousands of immigrants, Israel is bound to do just that and it is up to the Arabs to meet the challenge and to come to the aid of Jordan, which guards the confrontation lines with the common enemy, the paper added. It said that only by solidarity and self-reliance can the Arabs impose their respect on the world and deter Israel from committing further aggressions on the Arab Nation.

## ECONOMIC FORUM

# The virtuous role of consumption

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE ESSENCE of economic activity is to produce goods and services that satisfy human needs. These goods and services are produced by enterprises which will have to be shut down if their output is not consumed. Thus more consumption entails higher demand which in turn means higher levels of economic activity, more output, greater income and eventually economic progress. If consumption starts to dwindle, this sequence of virtuous actions will be reversed and we end up with economic deterioration.

Of course, it is well known that a country should not consume immediately all the goods it produces and that it has to save some of them to be used for producing more goods and services. These are savings which are in effect earmarked for future or postponed consumption. Goods like machinery, tools, equipment and raw materials are not consumed directly by human beings but are used to create goods and services which actually are consumed in the process of creation.

It is thus through consumption and more of it that demand is created and boosted and economic progress materialises. And this

is unquestionably an indispensable virtuous role.

Of course, goods and services consumed are either produced domestically or imported. The greater the imports, the greater is that part of the virtues of consumption that accrue to the foreigners and are denied to the national economy. This analysis is very useful to policymaking because what should be curtailed is consumption of imported goods and services and not that of domestic ones. Consumption based on domestic goods and services should be encouraged outrightly because it is the formidable propeller of production and progress. The suppression of this consumption is justified only in very specific cases such as the desire to divert more output for exports, a process which, however, still aims at supplying more goods for consumption purposes at a later stage. Another case for curbing consumption is when the economy gets overheated and the inflation monster is unleashed out.

In this case, it is a very well-established and standard economic logic to resort to the cutting of consumption as a means to dampen inflationary pressures. But to say that inflation should be used as a

means to curb consumption is absolute nonsense for more than one reason. First, even if this solution works and consumption is cut down, we will end up with a malady, namely inflation, which is more serious than the original ailment of excessive consumption. And normally inflation is not a curable disease in developing countries, which means that it will be almost perpetuated. Second, there are other safer ways of curbing consumption such as taxes, interest rate increases and, in the case of consumption based on imports, all those measures which force a cut down in imports including banning and quantitative restrictions.

After the catastrophic failure of currency devaluation in Jordan and the consequential wide jump in inflation it led to, it is incredibly strange to try to justify that unjustifiable action by saying it was necessary to combat consumption through igniting inflation! If that were the case we could have decreed made-to-measure price increases without going through the agonies of devaluation. However, what Jordan faced in 1989 and 1988 was not excessive consumption but excessive imports, first and foremost.

## Egypt reaffirms its call for nuclear arms-free Mideast

The following is the text of a letter dated April 19, 1990 from the permanent representative of Egypt addressed to the president of the conference on disarmament transmitting a letter addressed to the secretary-general of the United Nations from Dr. Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Egypt, concerning the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and President Hosni Mubarak's statement in this regard.

Mr. Secretary-General,

The Middle East, as you are well aware, continues to be a highly volatile conflict torn region. Even in these times, where a rising tide of peace seems to be emerging in different regions of the world, as you so succinctly remarked in your report on the work of the United Nations, 1989, "the situation of the Middle East remains a source of profound and intense concern..."

Recent developments in the region have further underscored the importance and urgency of safeguarding the Middle East from the ominous implications associated with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Egypt has, for over 15 years, called for establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. This position emanated from our unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament, as well as nuclear weapons non-proliferation, and our deep conviction that the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East would have been devastating consequences on the prospects for stability and security in the region, and for the maintenance of international peace and security in general.

President Hosni Mubarak on April 8, 1990, categorically declared Egypt's support for ensuring that the Middle East become a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction. President Mubarak emphasised the following:

1. All weapons of mass destruction without exception, should be prohibited in the Middle East i.e. nuclear, chemical and biological...etc.

2. All states of the region, without exception, should make equal and reciprocal commitments in this regard.

3. Verification measures and modalities should be established to ascertain full compliance by all states of the region with the full scope of the prohibitions without exception.

Egypt shall continue to work with states in the region, and beyond, towards declaring the Middle East a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction, and the establishment of the requisite international verification measures, applicable to all the states of the region on an equal basis. It is our sincere hope that the other states of the region will be equally forthcoming in this regard, as we strive to enhance the prospects for a just, lasting peace in the Middle East.

Kindly accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

## Bush seeks clarification

(Continued from page 1)

Labour Party fell in March over Shimon Peres's refusal to accept U.S. proposals.

The Labour Party leader said preparations for war would be economically taxing for both the Arab world and Israel.

"The real mistake would be to return to the whole business of wasting money for war-like preparations. 'But there is a chance to go the other way,' he said.

Asked how long he thought Shimon's new government would last, Peres would say only: "I'm not very good on predicting dates."

EC voices concern

The European Community (EC) is seriously concerned about the attitude of the new Israeli government towards the peace process, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said Monday.

Summarising a debate among the 12 EC foreign ministers in preparation for next week's summit in Dub-

## Political turmoil in ex-colonies poses major dilemma for France

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

PARIS — France, long proud of its unmatched commitment to black Africa, is groping for the proper response to a wave of protests against undemocratic regimes that it has helped sustain.

Although democratisation in Eastern Europe was welcomed unreservedly by the West, Africa poses a policy dilemma without clear solutions.

France, with its own revolutionary heritage, will not repudiate the intensifying cries for change in Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Cameroon and other former colonies. Yet there are worries in Paris that the abrupt ouster of incumbent regimes — even if corrupt or repressive — might unleash ethnic strife and economic chaos without ensuring progress towards democracy.

France officials insist they will not walk away from the problem, and there is much talk about discreetly nudging current leaders towards reform. Several presidents, for the first time, are at least paying lip-service to the concept of multi-party elections.

But to some critics, France's discretion is merely camouflage for a lack of strategies.

"Across the continent, tumultuous situations require new ideas," said the independent Paris-based magazine Jeune Afrique. "France is woosed by the governments and the opposition. But for the first time, its African policy seems to have broken down."

"If France perhaps knows what it wants, it doesn't know how to achieve it," said the magazine, one of several in Paris to devote recent cover stories to Francophone Africa's Turmoil.

"The post-colonial period is over," said Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "It's up to Africans to resolve their problems."

Other former colonial powers — Britain, Portugal and Belgium — have invested less of their international prestige in the continent, and have not emulated France's familial relationships with African leaders.

Ironically, the United States — never an African coloniser — faces dilemmas similar to the French in Liberia and Zaire, recipients of extensive U.S. aid.

American diplomats have urged authoritarian presidents Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Samuel K. Doe of Liberia to allow political pluralism, but neither Zaire's fragmented opposition nor Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor has obtained formal backing in Washington.

French President Francois Mitterrand has a longstanding reputation as an advocate of Third World interests, but some critics say European affairs now preoccupy him at Africa's expense. He will be under pressure to convey a clear-cut message regarding human rights when he plays host to the biennial Franco-African summit meeting June 19-21.

More than 25 African leaders many facing emboldened domestic opposition — are expected at the summit in La Baule, a resort on Brittany's Coast of Love. It may prove less than amorous, as the Africans demanding more debt relief while France lectures them on democracy.

Cooperation Minister Jacques Pelletier, who oversees French aid to Africa, summarised current government thinking at a news conference last week: "There is no true development without genuine democracy."

But he said multi-party systems, while "a good thing," are "not the only method" for attaining democracy.

A more blunt assessment came from former Premier Jacques Chirac, a conservative. Multi-party politics, he said, "is a sort of luxury" that developing countries "don't have the ability to provide themselves."

Last year's upheavals in Eastern Europe galvanised Africa's discouragement.

political dissidents. So did the dramatic changes in South Africa, long a favourite target of indignation from black African leaders.

When the "great satan" of South Africa legalised its opposition and freed its worst enemies, the second-rate dictators elsewhere find themselves very much alone," said the leftist Paris daily, Liberation.

Africa's political turmoil coincides with bleak economic conditions, unmanageable foreign debt, falling export income, population growth exceeding food production. French businesses are looking elsewhere for profits that are more reliable and less tainted by corruption.

Pelletier says the number of French firms in Africa has dropped by 25 per cent from its peak. Many companies are eyeing Eastern Europe as a preferable venue.

This trend is "worrysome, but not catastrophic," said Pelletier. "France's aid to Eastern Europe is very different from that reserved for the south. There will be an expansion of efforts. Not a subtraction."

France currently provides more than \$2.5 billion annually in bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa, compared to \$893 million allocated by the United States for the coming year.

More than 125,000 French expatriates live in the region, hundreds of French firms operate there, and 14 countries base their currency on the franc. France has

defence treaties with six sub-Saharan countries and deploys about 6,600 soldiers there.

Said Pelletier, rejecting a phenomenon dubbed "Afro-pessimism" by the press, "Africa needs our determination, not our discouragement."

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## Social hangups in Jordan hinder nursing profession

By Nur Sadi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Female nurses have been struggling with their image and status for many decades and more specifically in the Arab World, where traditional values and society have maintained a strong grip on how women interact with men in society. Furthermore, nurses have always been characterized as passive, nurturing handmaids of physicians and are dependent and somewhat subservient.

Even now, in many Arab countries, women are reluctant to enter the nursing profession for fear of being viewed upon as unattractive and unskilled, says Dr. Rowaidah Mac'tah, vice president of the Faculty of Nursing at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.

The issue of male-female physical contact is an added barrier to these women who think of entering the profession. In Saudi Arabia, for example, women have second thoughts about becoming nurses because of social factors, traditional values and family objections. The situation may not exactly be the same in Jordan, but there are still parental reservations over daughters becoming nurses.

"My father started threatening me as soon as I told him about my future career. He began picturing me cleaning a male body and constantly giving him my attention," said a nursing student at the Jordan University.

Over the past few years, society has been shaping up the images of nurses directly or indirectly. Nevertheless, the result is visible in the way the nurses view themselves. Females entering the profession hold low self-esteem, Mac'tah said. According to a questionnaire distributed to 190 women chosen from four different universities in Baghdad, only 3.2 per cent enjoyed being a nurse while the rest did not want to be practising nurses in the future. The reasons behind the negative responses were the attitudes of families, relatives and friends towards the profession.

Una Ridley, who presented a working paper on the profession of nursing earlier this year, said: "Students entering the profession bring with them a variety of attitudes, beliefs, and values about nursing and nurses. These attitudes often reflect the society's views of the profession and have continued to develop during the students' early lives through experiences with parents, teachers, and the media."

Jordan is facing similar problems. At the University of Jordan's Faculty of Nursing, students are not yet sure why they are enrolled in the course. "I did not know what else to do. I don't really like this profession, but my qualifications did not permit me to select another career. Besides, I thought it was an easy subject to grasp without much effort," says a first year student of nursing.

Another expert states that most nurses entering the pro-

fession "have selected it because of a desire to help people. What they discover is that altruism and good intentions are not enough and that nursing is a demanding profession requiring considerable intelligence and skill."

This seems to be the case with the majority of the women. They decide to take on this career as a last resort thinking it does not require much mental strain, says Mac'tah.

Research has revealed that public perceptions of a professional group are important because they influence the person into accepting or rejecting the profession and society is able to define the sort of functions that a profession is permitted to perform. Such perceptions determine the morale of the concerned professionals and their economic and social position in the community.

What society does not seem to realize is that the nurse is an important element to the hospital. Her task involves devoting her time to the patient and being the doctor's right arm. So the nurse has to "know a lot about medicine and the doctor's role," Mac'tah says.

"It is surprising to note that many doctors hold the same belief of the nurses as society," she asserted. Although some of them do not agree, most physicians have the impression that nurses are unskilled and treat them so.

But a doctor in Amman admits, "I could not carry out my daily affairs in hospital without a nurse. Doctors end up

relying on them so much that in fact they become more important and essential."

What could be done to influence the distorted image of nursing by utilising the media?

So far, media representation, mainly television series, have not played a constructive role in portraying nurses. Many programmes have portrayed nurses as saints.

Thomas Erskine, an expert, said that "Although Aaron Spelling, producer of 'Nightingale,' claimed that the series would present a 'more contemporary, reliable approach' to the lives of nursing students, the show actually features an outmoded, nursing education model, exploits women as commodities, and more closely resembles the sexually suggestive feature films it ironically criticizes in an episode."

The programmes have developed nurses into God-like figures possessing unlimited powers in making things always go right. However, this is not the case. "We are human and very realistic," says Mac'tah.

But Elman Jafar, another expert, states that recently, "Jordanian television has been trying to portray nurses in a more positive manner in a series known as Abu Awwad."

Few would challenge the impact of the mass media on public opinion. Many experts believe that the image reflected by the media carries the ability to penetrate into the minds of nursing students as they learn and step into their professional roles.

## 'Free trade' is another name for playing freely in Tunisia

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuter

SFAX, Tunisia. — "Welcome to the market place of the Maghreb," said Hassan, proudly displaying his stock of Algerian light bulbs, leather shoes from Morocco, chocolate bars from Egypt and pasta made in Libya.

Hassan, who runs one of some 500 stalls down by the docks in the Tunisian port of Sfax, would like you to believe he is leading the drive for regional economic integration.

"We believe in free trade," he said. "We don't pay customs duty and we don't intend to either."

But as five north African countries take the first steps towards establishing a common market stretching from Tahrir to the Atlantic coast, the merchants of the so-called "Libya market" in Sfax are making the most of the remaining discrepancies.

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They take with them Tunisian products, like clothes and household goods, or imported goods which are unavailable in Libya because the state trading companies do not import them.

When money changes hands, it is at the rate of one Tunisian dinar to one Libyan. At the official rate the Libyan is worth three times as much.

The system, tolerated so far by both governments, results in some bizarre opportunities for profit.

One high-quality export brand of Tunisian olive oil, for example, finds its way back to the Tunisian market, undercutting the low-grade subsidised oil which the Tunisian government provides for domestic consumption.

Diplomats say they have even seen on sale blends of cooking oil which contain Tunisian olive oil exported to the European Community under a preferential quota.

The market, which sprung up in the months after the Libyan-Tunisian border reopened in Dec. 1987, depends on a complicated series of political and economic anomalies which have little to do with integration.

Every day hundreds of Tunisian pick-up trucks make the trip across the border to buy goods imported by the Libyan government with heavily overvalued Libyan dinars.

Only the Egyptian goods,

which include plastic toys, Misr instant coffee and Sheikh Al-Balad bubble-bubble tobacco, seem to be competing on something approaching the rules of free trade.

That a chain of private operators can relay these goods across North Africa, mark up the prices by several hundred per cent and still make a profit is an amazing tribute to the export potential of the Egyptian economy.

But Sfax traders, easy pickings may not last indefinitely.

At Libya's General People's Congress (parliament) in March, many of the delegates advocated closer controls over the trade, which is a serious drain on the Libyan treasury.

Liberian ministers have argued that the money they lose is a form of contribution to the cause of Arab unity. Those who oppose the trade are narrow-minded nationalists, they say.

But if the Libyan authorities go ahead with plans to introduce ration cards for subsidised goods then rice, coffee and corn oil could disappear from Hassan's shelves overnight.

On the Tunisian side the arguments are more complicated, with the Tunisian politicians, the civil service, shopkeepers, industrialists and consumers all having their say.

Civil servants, horrified by traders who can provide no



receipts or certificates of origin for the goods they peddle, threatened in March to impose restrictions to end the trade.

The sight of Tunisians in jeans standing by the roadside and waving bundles of black-market Libyan dinars was a shock to functionaries trained in the scrupulous methods of the French bureaucracy.

"We would like the trade to conform to the regulations on health and customs duties and so on," said a Sfax civil servant.

Industrialists complained of unfair competition for their goods while consumers and the traders were in favour of importing cheap goods and stimulating Tunisian exports.

## CIA experiences American glasnost

By Joan Nowell  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA is refocusing its operations to look at issues such as international economic competitiveness, terrorism and narcotics, but some experts say the agency is moving too slowly to keep up with changes in the post-cold war world.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact have tempered the great U.S.-Soviet rivalry and prompted the CIA to undertake a wide-ranging self-analysis to determine what it should be going and where it should be going.

The agency, meantime, "nervously is eyeing budget cuts being made by Congress in the defense department, where most of the money for intelligence is put, the official said.

The intelligence budget, which includes money for the CIA's sister agencies such as the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, was estimated to be about \$28 billion in fiscal year 1990. The intelligence agencies want to avoid any proportional hit when defense is pared.

"The transformation of our intelligence priorities is beginning," Sen. David Boren, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wrote in an opinion piece in Sunday's Editions of the New York Times.

"The congressional oversight committee is working with the CIA to develop an innovative, long-term strategy that sheds cold-war priorities and focuses on language and cultural skills and economic expertise," Boren wrote.

At CIA's complex in the Bucclech Woods overlooking the Potomac River just outside Washington, a senior intelligence official said there was "great debate" under way about the agency's future.

"There is more intellectual excitement in this building than there has been in years," the official said in an interview. He asked not to be identified by his name.

Practicing their own form of glasnost, CIA officials and some

members of Congress these days speak forthrightly about unique opportunities in 1990 for re-evaluating operations and goals, as well as the daunting challenges.

But they insist intelligence needs will not diminish, they'll simply be different.

The era of the cloak and dagger may be over, but the cloaks are likely to multiply and become even more pervasive in their effort to procure military, industrial and commercial secrets," said Sen. William Cohen, the ranking Republican party member on the Senate intelligence panel.

"It is time to face new enemies — drugs, terrorism, poverty, brush fire wars and pollution of our planet," he said.

And while some spies will come in from the cold, "many more will bark and flourish," Cohen said.

Boren agrees. The "growth area" is the industrial espionage that is carried out by foreign governments against private U.S. companies.

"More and more, the aim of espionage is to steal private commercial secrets for the sake of national economic purpose," Boren told the National Press Club recently.

"We're going to have to know about foreign governments' intentions for oil production levels, exchange rates and trade policies," he said. "We're going to have to protect our own commercial enterprises against the theft of secrets."

But the agency is optimistic about the future. An CIA Director William Webster says the man who really counts — President George Bush, a former CIA director himself — has no gripes.

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**Oil prices tumble below \$16 per barrel**

## Iraq slams Arab countries for slide in world oil prices

BAGHDAD (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) heavyweight Iraq Tuesday blamed quota-busting by some of the other Arab states for the recent slide in world oil prices, joining a growing chorus of alarm among producers.

U.S. crude oil futures dropped below \$16 per barrel Monday to 18-month lows, down more than one-third since January.

Oil for delivery in July slid \$0.68 a barrel to \$15.94 on the New York mercantile exchange, after dipping as low as \$15.90 during the day.

The last time prices for West Texas intermediate, the benchmark U.S. grade of crude, closed as low was in December 1988.

Declines in Europe were less dramatic, but prices for Brent blend crude from the North Sea, the world benchmark, slid almost \$0.20 to \$14.85 a barrel in London.

Traders said the latest drop was because the market could see no evidence that two Middle East over-producers, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, had done enough to cut output in line with OPEC accords.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi named no names in a statement published Tuesday but said that some producers caused the glut by raising output last winter when a freak cold snap temporarily boosted U.S. fuel demand.

## Commercial Union launches UCITS



Issam Al Chalabi

"This had encouraged some states, among them... Arab ones, to take certain attitudes to affect the price levels... they have increased production on a large scale," Al Chalabi told Al Iraq newspaper.

"What happened was that some OPEC member-states did not abide by the decision (to cut output)... and I say, they did not abide by it probably with pre-meditation," he added.

The Iraqi minister's statement followed a warning last week by OPEC President Sadek Boussoua of Algeria that there was a risk of a crash similar to one in 1986 when prices fell below \$10 per barrel.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, said Monday night that strict discipline in OPEC was the only way to achieve a market recovery.

The king said: "Saudi Arabia has abided and continues to fully abide by its quota and again hopes that all will adhere to their quotas in the interest of oil producers and consumers alike," according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

Price weakness is costing Arab producers around \$60 million a day in lost revenues, according to regional oil industry experts.

Iraq, using its oil income to rebuild its economy after the Gulf war with Iran, is a founder member of the 13-nation OPEC and owns around 10 per cent of the world prove reserves. Only

Saudi Arabia has bigger reserves. OPEC agreed at crisis talks in Geneva May 3 to cut excess output by six per cent to around 22 million barrels per day (bpd) for the period May through July.

But its secretary-general, Subroto of Indonesia, said last weekend that cuts in May only totalled about 400,000.

Gulf-based traders say Kuwait had started to cut output during the second half of this month but the UAE had not.

But they doubted whether Kuwait's cut would exceed 200,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Chalabi quoted officials of over-producing countries as saying "they were not able to reduce production in May, promising to strive to do that in June."

He said rapid action to cut production would protect their interests and income as well as those of other producers.

World demand for OPEC oil in 1990 is currently seen at around 22.0 million barrels daily, analysts said.

Unconfirmed reports that Kuwait was offering price reductions to Japanese customers similar to those reportedly pledged by Saudi Arabia two weeks ago also sent prices sharply lower, sources said.

Even if OPEC nations successfully cut output, oil prices would be unlikely to show any significant recovery in next two months due to high levels of global crude stocks, an official at another Japanese oil firm said.

cents a barrel to Asian customers since prices tumbled two weeks ago.

Analysts said that once prices penetrate \$16 a barrel, the next level of major support lies at \$15.40 a barrel. But prices could slip lower.

"If gasoline starts to lose its punch then (crude) could reach \$15.25 to \$15.50 in the next two weeks," said Jayne Ball at New Century Resources.

OPEC is not seen likely to cut production soon.

"With OPEC nations having financial problems, they are unlikely to initiate production cuts to solve the global oil glut," said Toshio Inoue, manager for Cosmo Oil's International Affairs Division.

Trade sources have said that both Kuwait and Iran are being pressed to at least match the Saudi cuts. Trade reports that Saudi Arabia was discounting its July contract prices by up to \$0.70

## Mitterrand urges aid plan for Soviet Union

PARIS (R) — President François Mitterrand said in an interview published Tuesday that France would urge the West in the next few weeks to consider a major economic aid programme for the Soviet Union.

He told the daily *Le Monde* he believed President Mikhail Gorbachev was capable, despite great difficulties, of raising Soviet living standards.

But if he failed to hold the country together there could be grave international repercussions.

"Therefore, I intend to ask the forthcoming summits in Dublin European Community (EC) and Houston (Group of Seven industrialised democracies) to consider financial, commercial and technical aid for the USSR," Mitterrand said as he spoke to *Le Monde*.

The 12-nation EC meets in

Dublin next week. The Group of Seven, comprising the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada, meets in Houston from July 9 to 11.

Mitterrand said: "If Mikhail Gorbachev succeeds, which would be in all our interests, that will have raised the standard of living of the Soviet people and loosened the decentralised and adapted the constitutional and political system of the Soviet Union."

"I believe he's capable of it, even though the task is terribly difficult," *Le Monde* quoted Mitterrand as saying.

"If not, the rise of nationalism threatening the implosion of the Soviet Union will set off a cycle of confrontation and violence which will have grave international repercussions."

The 12-nation EC meets in

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

consciousness and you can handle them well by taking them up one by one in organised order.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Consider your own intimate urges and what you can do to make them come true in your everyday living and you make this unusually good day.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 in November 21) Think about the various friends and acquaintances who can be helpful to you in pursuing your personal aims and you get some desired support.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have agreed to do where public matters that can affect your reputation and good name are concerned should be done scrupulously.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Take some moments to refresh yourself upon the requirements for some new interests that intrigues you and then pursue adding to such knowledge.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) The various income and abilities that require attending to can now be put into right perspective and an intelligent course arranged.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put yourself in a position to get the truth from a reticent partner how you can best operate more closely in union with this individual.

## West's high-tech firms still wary about trade with East

By Catherine Arnst  
Reuter

LONDON — Uncertainty and caution remain the same for Western electronics companies which deal with Eastern Europe despite a big relaxation on trade in equipment once thought to be defence-related.

In the most radical decision of its 41-year history, the 17-nation Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) slashed by one-third in early June a list of exports barred for security reasons from Warsaw Pact countries.

At a stroke, U.S. officials said, the way was clear for American goods to the reformed East Bloc worth about \$45 billion.

But makers of telecommunications equipment, computers and machine tools remain wary.

Eastern Europe, suffering from a severe shortage of foreign exchange and grappling with weak domestic economies, must still face the problem of how to pay for such advanced equipment.

"The main obstacle is not COCOM but price," said Stefan Widomski, vice president of export operations for Finnish electronics group Oy Nokia AB.

East Bloc states might turn to lower priced producers such as South Korea or Singapore, rather than buy from the West.

"Even if the restrictions are lifted, I don't think we will be very competitive," Widomski said.

COCOM, whose members include all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

countries except Iceland, plus Japan and Australia, decided to ease trade restrictions on 30 of 116 restricted categories of equipment and plans to eliminate eight more categories by August.

The new rules will permit exports of the most advanced personal computers and some models of minicomputers and mainframe computers, previously barred completely.

They will also allow more sophisticated telecommunications equipment, enabling East European countries to gain access to desperately needed modern telephone systems.

Recognising a special situation in East Germany, COCOM eliminated all trade controls between the two Germanys except for a small number of items with direct military applications.

It also agreed to give preferential treatment to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which were deemed to be less of a strategic threat than the Soviet Union.

Companies and analysts were as yet unsure how much increased business the changes would bring. One guidepost could be China, which doubled its high-technology trade with the West after COCOM eased restrictions there in 1985.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, an independent London-based forecasting group, COCOM members shipped \$1.12 billion worth of high-technology equipment to Warsaw Pact states in 1987, but no one sees a doubling of trade yet.

Besides the East's cash shortage, there was also uncertainty about how each member of COCOM would interpret the changes, since each nation

must decide how to apply the rules to exports.

Most manufacturers were awaiting more information from their own governments before determining the impact on business.

"We know the limits have been raised but we want to know how far and we want to know what products are concerned," said a spokesman for French computer maker Compaq de Machines Bull.

A spokesman for Siemens AG of West Germany, Europe's largest computer maker, said: "The COCOM decision will not have a direct impact."

U.S. to set tone

There is an assumption that the United States, always the most hardline member of COCOM, would set the tone for the interpretation of the rules by other members.

"I think the reaction from Washington is very important irrespective of what directions have been taken to the COCOM meeting," said Bo Land, marketing manager of Sweden's Telefonaktiebolaget L M Ericsson.

Washington gave one hint of its view when it vetoed, along with Britain, a \$500 million proposal by U.S. West Incorporated and British Telecommunications to build a fibre optic cable across the Soviet Union. It argued that the project called for equipment with potential military applications.

But communications experts said the veto may not prevent the deal from moving ahead, because other countries may take a different view of what is a lucrative project.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, June 19, 1990  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	119.4	119.1
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	Dutch guilder	434.1	436.7	
Pound Sterling	1141.4	1148.2	Swedish crown	109.8	110.5	
Deutschmark	398.2	400.6	Italian lire	54.3	54.6	
Swiss franc	471.9	474.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	193.6	194.8	

One ounce of gold 348.65/349.05

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7110/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1730/40	Canadian dollar
	1.6755/60	Deutschmarks
	1.8840/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4140/50	Swiss francs
	34.46/47	Belgian francs
	5.6330/80	French francs
	1228/1229	Italian lire
	153.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.0700/50	Swedish crowns
	6.4500/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.3750/3800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	348.65/349.05	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market closed lower in very thin trading. A lack of fresh news related to currencies or interest rates and caution ahead of Tuesday's Japanese money supply data helped dampen interest. The Nikkei fell 161.60 to 32,376.80.

SYDNEY — The market closed firmer in relatively featureless trade dominated by turnover in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 3.6 to 1,506.1.

HONG KONG — Closed for Queen Elizabeth's birthday holiday. The Hang Seng Index closed Friday at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed in thin and very quiet trading after selective bargain-hunting alternated with some selling. However, large gains in some stocks on the Straits Times Industrial Index pushed it up 14.43 to 1,545.72.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose broadly as renewed monsoon rains brought droves of investors back to the market after two weeks of sluggish trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 5.37 points to 791.32.

FRANKFURT — A brief mid-session buying spree pushed the Dax Index above 1,800 but buying orders tailed off as prices rose. The index closed at 1,797.42, up 5.16.

ZURICH — Shares closed broadly lower on light volume. The SPI Index fell 6.8 points to 1,179.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower by midday, testing resistance around the key 2,000 level on the CAC-40 index. At 1115 GMT the index was down 12.47 at 1,999.40.

LONDON — Shares added to earlier losses in late trading and were near their lows for the day following a 20-point slide soon after the New York opening. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 22.8 at 2,369.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks fell sharply in morning trading, hit by futures-related selling and a continuing drop in U.S. bond prices. The Dow was down 22 at 2,914.

## Argentines lament tie with Romania

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentines lamented their soccer team's 1-1 tie against Romania in the World Cup playoffs Monday, feeling their players had fallen short of their status as titanic.

Local fans felt a few, fleeting moments of glee when Pedro Monzon headed into Romania's net after 62 minutes for a 1-0 lead.

But six minutes later Gavril Balan dampened their joy by scoring. Romania's equaliser, sparked off bickering among Argentines about their team's lackluster performance.

"At times we played well and at others we played badly. I think head coach Carlos Bilardo must be fed up with midfield because they are running past us like a hot knife through butter," President Carlos Menem said at government house after the match.

Other fans pilloried the teams for playing conservatively. "Both played to tie. I expected something else from Argentina but it's obvious that (captain Diego) Maradona is 90 per cent of our team. If he is not up to scratch, we're nothing," office worker Julio Diana said.

The draw left Argentines wondering which teams they will meet in the next round of the playoff. Many were worried about having to face arch-rivals Brazil, but some expressed hope.

President Menem, who last year played a full 90-minute match with Argentine internationals to raise funds for the poor, was one of the optimists.

"We've always played good matches against Brazil — they've won some, we've won others. But I think we can reach the next round beating the Brazilians," he said.

Balan propelled Romania into the World Cup's second-round for the first time.

Argentina also advances to the second round with a third-place finish in Group B.

Romania finished second in the group, because it scored more goals than Argentina, which also finished the round with three points.

The result is historic for Romania, said coach Emerich Jenei. In four previous tries, Romania never past the first stage of the championship.

## Soviets win and lose; Cameroun loses and wins

BARI, Italy (AP) — Cameroun was a big winner despite being crushed by the Soviet Union. The Soviets were filled with bitterness after their victory.

In the topsy-turvy scheme of World Cup soccer, Cameroun won the championship of Group B Monday while losing 4-0. The Soviets earned a long trip home.

The "indomitable lions" clinched the group title thanks to Argentina and Romania playing to a 1-1 draw in Naples. They then said the embarrassing defeat to the Soviets helped them in the second round.

"A defeat is always a very good lesson," said Cameroun coach Valery Lobanovsky. "I think my side is an intelligent team, and an intelligent team cannot make gross mistakes two times in a row. I hope today's defeat will bring our players back to the ground."

Defender Stephane Tataw, the Cameroun captain, said the defeat may lessen the pressure on a team that entered the game with

out a loss in its 2-0 losses to Romania and Argentina and repeated his assertions that poor refereeing hurt his team in both contests.

Romania scored its second goal against the Soviets on a questionable handball call. Against Argentina, the Soviets did not get a handball call against Diego Maradona they thought they deserved.

"If my players could repeat the matches with both Romania and Argentina I think they would have scored the goals they didn't score," Lobanovsky said. "And I think that the mistakes by the referees, big mistakes, would not be repeated."

Tataw warned that Cameroun's second-round opponent, who has yet to be determined, should not be too confident after watching the team apart against the Soviets.

"A lot of people are saying this is the beginning of the end for Cameroun," he said. "But I bet you we are going to go farther."

Lobanovsky reflected on the poor finishing that plagued his

## Sweden needs victory to advance

GENOA, Italy (AP) — After two near-misses, Sweden must beat Costa Rica in Wednesday's Group C finale to have any chance of reaching the knockout stage in the World Cup.

Brazil, which edged Sweden 2-1 and Costa Rica 1-0 for four points, already has qualified for the second round. But the Brazilians have not yet clinched first place in Group C.

The battle for the other second-round berth — and possibly a third spot since four third-placed teams also qualify — is wide open. It could very well be settled on goal differential.

Costa Rica upset Scotland 1-0 in its first ever World Cup finals game June 11 and then lost 1-0 to Brazil. It could advance by drawing with Sweden.

Wednesday's game will be the first ever between Sweden and Costa Rica.

"We can't afford to lose even 1-0 against Sweden," said Costa Rica's Yugoslav coach, Bora Milutinovic. "But we are going to draw. I am optimistic. Sweden played well against Brazil, less well against Scotland, so they are hard to judge."

Milutinovic, who has improved Costa Rica's style of play in less than four months as coach, is not expected to make any changes for Wednesday's game.

Sweden made two changes in its 2-1 loss to Scotland Saturday and coach Olle Nordio announced two new starters Tuesday.

Midfielder Glenn Stromberg, a substitute in both previous games, will replace injured Jonas Thern.

Johnny Ekstrom, also a sub against Brazil and Scotland, will play up front with Tomas Brolin.

"Stromberg was an easy choice because of Thern's injury," said Nordin.

Then, who plays for Benfica Lisbon, suffered a back injury in the physical game against Scotland.

Stromberg, a hard-working veteran from Atlanta in the Italian league, came on as a sub and scored a late goal against Scotland.

Nordin told his players that it's going to be a soccer war at Luigi Ferraris stadium.

"We have to play aggressively and work, work, work," said Nordin. "Now we have to prove ourselves."

It is do-or-die for Sweden, which topped its qualifying group ahead of England.

## Yugoslavia beats UAE to reach second round

BOLOGNA (R) — Yugoslavia qualified for the second round of the World Cup finals with a 4-1 win over Group D underdogs the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday.

The goals by Darko Pancev, a replacement for the injured Stevo Katanec, and one apiece by veteran Safet Susic and Robert Prosinicki gave Yugoslavia the win they needed to go through for the first time since 1974.

Striker Ali Thani Juma caught Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic napping to pull one back for the Emirates but the team's final outing at their first World Cup was marked by injuries and a sending off.

Ali Thani limped off at half-time and leading midfielder Nasir Khamis Mbarak was also substituted in the first half after a foul which Yugoslav midfielder Dragoljub Brnovic a booking.

UAE were reduced to 10 men in the 77th minute when Khalil Ghaniham received a red card for a foul on Pancev.

Susic celebrated his 50th cap by putting the Yugoslavs, twice World Cup semifinalists, ahead after just four minutes.

Captain Zlatko Vujoovic crossed

the centre where Pancev beat defender Khalil to the ball and slotted it home.

More misfortune struck the UAE when Khalil, one of their strongest players, was sent off for a foul of the ball on Pancev. He had already received a yellow card.

The loss proved costly when Prosinicki, a 79th minute substitute for Katanec, scored the fourth goal in injury time.

He brought down a high cross and looped the ball over the heads of the watching UAE defenders.

The Yugoslavs appealed for a penalty when defender Khalil Ghaniham appeared to trip Pancev as he ran into the area but Japanese referee Sbuzan Takada waved play on.

As Yugoslavia began to sit back on their lead, the often disorganized but determined UAE began in try counter-attacks and Ali Thani Juma reduced the deficit to 2-1 in the 21st minute.

He headed a cross from the left from Adnan Khamis Talyani and goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic hesitated a split second too long to reach it.

## West Germany, Colombia tie

Rudi Voeller during an extraordinary first-half incident involving Colombian playmaker Carlos Valderrama.

Valderrama, playing a lively role in galvanising the Colombian attack, evaded a challenge by Reuter but was hauled down by Klaus Augenthaler.

He had been on the ground fully a minute, surrounded by team mates, when West Germany

broke away through Voeller on the left flank.

Alvarez brought down the striker and was booked, with Valderrama still on the ground.

Four minutes after the original incident, Valderrama was stretched off but soon returned.

After the incident he was booed by West German fans in the 72,510 crowd every time he touched the ball.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Advises of the STAATSBANK of the German Democratic Republic for natural persons and corporate bodies or other authorities with residence or seat outside the German Democratic Republic concerning the currency conversion within the scope of the monetary union between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany can be looked through at the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Amman. The monetary union is to become effective on July 1st, 1990.

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\* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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## Brazil faces tough test today

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Scotland's manager says Brazil is a team that lives on its reputation and one that won't intimidate his squad when the two World Cup soccer teams clash Wednesday.

Brazil, with two victories and four points, has already qualified for the second round and could clinch the Group C leadership with a draw. Scotland could qualify with a draw, but a win would clinch a second-round berth and a win by two goals or more could give it the group leadership.

"We are not afraid of Brazil, they live a lot on reputation," said Scotland's coach Andy Roxburgh. "When it is over they will know they've had a match."

"Brazil isn't going to flee from any battle. Brazil isn't going to lose to Scotland," retorted Zil's Sebastiao Lazaroni at a press

conference. "Brazil will play to finish first in Group C. We are going to win," said Lazaroni.

"If somebody said right now: 'OK, we have a draw,' I'd take it. But that's not the way we play," said Roxburgh. "They booted the team off the field when it could only beat Costa Rica 1-0."

Scotland, meanwhile, was stunned in its opening match by a 1-0 upset loss to Costa Rica 1-0 and appeared set for a humiliating World Cup. But they beat Sweden 2-1 last Saturday to keep their hopes alive.

Scotland has qualified for five consecutive World Cup, but has never made it past the first round. Brazil is the only country to have played in every World Cup. It has won it three times, most recently in 1970.

Both teams that win Thursday will clinch a second-round berth.

The top two teams from each of the six first-round groups qual-

ifying for the second stage, along with the four third-place teams with the best records.

Thursday's Group F games are being played simultaneously in Palermo and Cagliari, so coaches will lack the tactical edge of knowing the other game's result ahead of time.

Dutch manager Leo Beenhaker won't get into number games.

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## Russians to form own communist party under Soviet umbrella

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday endorsed the formation of a Russian Communist Party within the national party, but warned that friction between Russian and central leaders could destabilise the nation.

"I view... the Russian Communist Party as part of the Soviet Communist Party. And I sharply disagree with those who seek the salvation of Russia in withdrawing from the Soviet Union," Gorbachev said a Kremlin address.

The meeting is viewed as a bellwether of the watershed 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party due to start on July 2.

Gorbachev, chairman of the bureau that is organising the Russian Party, appeared firmly in control of the founding conference, which opened Tuesday in the Kremlin Palace of Congress.

He strongly defended his cautious economic and political reforms, and resisted efforts by radicals to open a debate on Russian sovereignty. He successfully sought to steer the conference on a centrist course, be-

tween radicals who want to hasten steps toward a market economy and conservatives who want to slow the reforms.

At the opening of the session, nearly 2,700 Russian Communists approved an agenda that included re-establishing the Russian Communist Party, which 65 years ago was absorbed into the national party.

Of the 15 Soviet republics, only Russia has not had its own party, in large part because Russians have dominated the national and the 14 republic parties.

However, under Gorbachev's reforms, other nationalities have asserted control of their own parties, and the authority of central government and party authorities has weakened.

Gorbachev vowed to stem the flow of authority from the centre.

The Communist Party of Lithuania has followed the most radical course, separating from the national party several months before the Lithuanian parliament voted on March 11 to secede from the Soviet Union.

The founding conference of the Russian Communist Party came a week after the republic's parliament approved a resolution calling for further legislation to declare that Russian laws supersede Soviet laws on Russian territory.

The resolution, which did not carry the force of law, opened the door for the Russian parliament to pass legislation transferring most political and economic decision-making power from central to republic authorities.

The champion of that movement is the newly elected president of Russia, Boris N. Yeltsin, who sat near Gorbachev on the dais Tuesday.

The decision to found a separate Russian party comes in response to two otherwise antagonistic political movements.

Radicals, including Yeltsin,

view formation of the party as a means of weakening central authority and hastening the reforms. Conservatives, especially nationalists, see a Russian party as a vehicle of preserving political and cultural traditions.

Several hours into the conference, it was not clear which course the delegates might chose.

Although Gorbachev acted as chairman of the session, he was not among the candidates considered likely to be elected as first secretary, or leader, of the new party.

Those in the running were the Soviet premier, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin and Yuri Manamakov, a secretary of the national party, said Andrei Gireenko, another national party secretary.

The sources said Trincomalee was wrested from the Tigers after a fierce battle Monday, the day the government ordered its forces on the offensive after peace talks failed.

Delegates to the Russian party conference voted 2,607 to 61, with 16 abstentions, to adopt the agenda proposed by Gorbachev, to consider the formation of the Russian party, and to debate the proposed platform of the national congress.

## Sri Lankan army recaptures Trincomalee after fierce fighting

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops waging all-out war against Tamil rebels have recaptured the major east coast port of Trincomalee after fierce fighting, military sources said Saturday.

The sources said government forces were also advancing in three columns on the town of Batticaloa, 140 kilometres south of Trincomalee.

The two towns have seen some of the most severe fighting since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who want an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, launched their latest offensive on June 11.

The sources said Trincomalee was wrested from the Tigers after a fierce battle Monday, the day the government ordered its forces on the offensive after peace talks failed.

"From now on it is all-out war. We will annihilate the Tigers," said Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is in charge of military operations.

Wijeratne told parliament the security forces had killed 600 Tigers since the fighting began last week. "Our losses have been minimal," he added.

Other sources said 100 soldiers might have died in combat. Some 215 policemen abducted by the rebels were reported to have been lined up and shot dead.

The Tigers captured 20 police stations, abducted 800 policemen and seized arms, ammunition and vehicles last week. Seven of the police stations were reported to have been recaptured by government forces.

The Tigers, in a statement issued from their London office, said the security forces had launched a "major offensive."

"Over 100,000 Tamils and Muslim people have been made refugees in the Batticaloa district as a direct consequence of massive offensive operations by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces," it said.

## COLLUMN 10

### Kurosawa gets Japanese award

NEW YORK (AP) — Akira Kurosawa, Japan's most influential film maker and the recipient of four Academy Awards, was given the 1990 Japan Society Award. Kurosawa, 80, who has made 28 movies, many of them epic set in long-gone eras of Japanese history, was honoured by the Japan Society for increasing appreciation and understanding of Japanese society and culture.

The town of Batticaloa is in the process of being consolidated and it is expected to be secured early," a military source said.

On Monday the rebels attacked a camp at Kiran near Batticaloa with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms.

A military officer also accused the rebels of lobbing "chemical bombs" at the camp.

## U.K. cuts defence budget by \$1b

LONDON (R) — Britain cancelled Monday an order for an estimated 33 Tornado fighter-bombers, a mainstay of NATO air-power, after disclosing that inflation had eroded its defence budget by £600 million (\$1 billion).

Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark told parliament he could not foresee "any place for additional Tornado aircraft in our programme" and had decided against authorising further work on the next batch order.

He did not say how many of the planes were involved. They are built by a European consortium of British Aerospace, Messerschmitt-Boekow-Blohm, a subsidiary of West Germany's aerospace

pace, defence, and automobile conglomerate Daimler-Benz, and Italy's state-owned aerospace group Aeritalia.

British media said orders for 33 of the £25 million (\$43 million) aircraft would be cancelled. More than 920 Tornados have been sold, mainly to member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

Clark and Defence Secretary Tom King, who addressed the House of Commons earlier, blamed higher than forecast inflation for forcing one of the deepest cuts in Britain's military spending in years.

Britain's defence budget is set to rise by five per cent this year to £21 billion (\$36 billion). But when inflation is taken into account, the increase becomes a three per cent cut in real terms.

The possibility of a so-called peace dividend from the lessening of superpower tensions and democratisation of Eastern Europe is being considered separately by the Defence Ministry in a review called "options for change."

Clark has said the brunt of cuts under the programme would fall on the British army of the Rhine.

Announcing short-term measures to trim spending, King told parliament the ministry had temporarily banned most other new purchases while it examined what savings could be made.

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## Burmese military ruler warns against early power transfer

RANGOON (AP) — The head of Burma's military junta Monday stressed that his government will not be rushed into handing over power to the civilian opposition that won the national elections on May 27.

Gen. Saw Maung said a new constitution must be drafted and emphasised that it will be a complicated and lengthy process, in a speech before the members of historical commission.

"A constitution should be sound and stable so that there would be no subsequent problems arising out of its shortcomings," he said.

He implied that the constitution adopted in 1947 at the end of British rule was flawed and led to national strife that climaxed with the 1988 civilian uprising against the military.

Burmese took to the streets that year to press for democracy, briefly triumphed then were brutally crushed by army gunfire. Several thousand civilians were killed.

"We will not tolerate recurrence of the 1988 situation," said the general, "and will not tolerate endangering to our three basic duties — preventing disintegration of the union, preventing disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuating national independence and sovereignty."

Referring to foreign media comments urging an immediate transfer of power, Gen. Saw Maung said "it is not a trivial matter. We are an independent nation and we are not subservient to any foreign influence."

"We have done what we should do and every person with an objective mind appreciates it. Except the insurgents we have no opposition," he said.

It appeared to be strong warning against pressure for immediate transfer of power.

The opposition scored a huge victory over conservative, pro-military forces in the May 27 vote. Tallying show the parliament will be overwhelmingly domin-

ated by the junta's harshest critics, the National League for Democracy.

The military has promised to yield power after newly elected legislators enact a constitution and form a civilian government. But many express concern over whether the military will be able to wean itself from power.

Gen. Saw Maung seized power last Sept. 18, replacing the 26-year Socialist system of army强人朱文, who many believe still wields behind-the-scenes power.

The tense political scene in Burma is complicated by economic malaise and ethnic insurrections, which could be interpreted as threatening national unity. Within the National League for Democracy, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction. Another flash point could prove to be Aung San Suu Kyi, the dynamic opposition leader.

The reports said they took away 53 gold bars from the Kuala Lumpur goldsmiths and 1,643 million rings.

Under their new name, the Socialists dumped much of their Communist baggage and mounted a slick election campaign which exhorted people to "vote for the BSP, vote for the future."

"We really had a difficult life in the past few decades, but we know what to expect from the Communists," said one 60-year-old woman.

She said the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) "is unknown to us and I personally fear anything new and unfamiliar."

The UDF won its greatest support in larger towns and cities, its campaign for a market-based economy and stress on private enterprise drawing support from younger, more sophisticated urban voters.

Monday's scenes were the closest to a celebration by Socialists, who have kept a low profile as thousands of UDF supporters have monopolised street rallies in Sofia in recent weeks to celebrate their party's emergence as a powerful opposition bloc.

Music blared from loudspeakers outside Socialist Party headquarters, a forbidding stone structure that was once off limits to the public but is now draped in bright red banners. A canopy coffee bar was opened on the pavement outside to attract young voters.

Party supporters hugged and kissed as they huddled beneath the loudspeakers to follow broadcasts of the election result.

The crowd walked away to the tunes of American rock band and Chicago singing. "It's hard for me to say I'm sorry, I just want you to know."

## Liberian rebels repeat call for Doe's exile

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The leader of the rebel delegation to Liberian peace talks says the insurgents have not agreed to a ceasefire and continue to demand the exile of President Samuel Doe.

Thomas Woewiyu, interviewed Monday night, also spurned Doe's offer of a general amnesty that would permit the insurgents to set up their own political party.

The Defence Department statement said that 19 of the 324 American wounded were caused by friendly fire.

"An additional 21 were injured by either friendly or enemy fire during the intense night fighting in the vicinity of the Commandancia (PDF Headquarters)," the Defence Department said. "We cannot distinguish which of the 21 were hit by friendly or enemy fire."

The invasion resulted in the arrest of Noriega, who was taken to the United States where he is still facing drug trafficking charges. Noriega denies the charges.

Leaders of the Rights and Freedoms and Agrarian parties to set up their own political party.

Doe Monday lifted the ban on several opposition political parties and said the National Patriotic Front could set up a party without fear of a crackdown.

"Doe has no authority to grant

anybody amnesty. He is not in a position to grant amnesty. He can only grant himself amnesty," said Woewiyu.

He added, "our ultimate leader (Charles Taylor) controls the military machine, and whatever

we do subsequent problems arising out of its shortcomings," he said.

He implied that the constitution adopted in 1947 at the end of British rule was flawed and led to national strife that climaxed with the 1988 civilian uprising against the military.

Burmese took to the streets that year to press for democracy, briefly triumphed then were brutally crushed by army gunfire. Several thousand civilians were killed.

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"In such a situation, as is usual in theory and practice in the world, they have to form their own government," Zhelev said. "If they don't like that, they can form a government of experts of their own, but we will not be part of it."

Zhelev suggested that splits in both the Socialist Party and the UDF could change Bulgaria's political landscape and ensure ultimate stability.

"The present distribution of forces is rather artificial," the premier said. "It hides the divisions of the party, the ideological

and political differences. The Socialists' new government must first tackle the country's \$10-billion foreign debt, rising inflation and consumer goods shortages. The newly elected unicameral grand National Assem-

blies must also write a constitution, which requires two-thirds approval for adoption.

Official results of Sunday's runoff elections gave the Socialists 211 seats in the 400-seat parliament. The UDF captured 144 seats, the ethnic Turkish Rights and Freedoms Movement won 23 seats, and the mainstream Agrarian Party 16. Smaller parties and independents won six seats.

Leaders of the Rights and Freedoms and Agrarian parties have said they would not join a coalition just with the Socialists.

The Bulgarian capital, Sofia, going against the nationwide trend, voted overwhelmingly for the opposition, electing UDF candidates for 24 of 26 available seats.

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